

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee on Thursday, July 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Ben Clemons presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Kathy Vitale, Vice Chairman (7:03 p.m.)
 Alderman Arthur T. Craffey, Jr.
 Alderman Paul M. Chasse, Jr.

Members Not in Attendance: Alderman Richard P. Flynn

Also in Attendance: Paul Bergeron, City Clerk

O-11-73

RELATIVE TO THE REVISION OF WARD BOUNDARIES

Chairman Clemons

As we know, Alderman Flynn is out ill. I would invite the City Clerk to come forward, if he could, and just give a brief explanation as to what O-11-73 is going to do for us, before we take testimony.

Paul Bergeron

Thank you Mr. Chairman. O-11-73 is the legislation that is required to be sponsored under our City Charter every ten years following the U.S. Census. It is required every ten years under our Charter to redistrict based on the census population numbers received as a result of the 2010 census. The objective is to try and equalize as much as possible the populations in all nine wards. The ideal population in each ward, the average population should be 9,610 people. This would ensure the principle of one man one vote and equal representation for all of our residents on the Board of Aldermen and other city offices.

We tried to create a range of deviation as small as possible. There are no set guidelines on what the range of deviation should be between our smallest ward and our largest ward, but the State Supreme Court ten years ago indicated that a statewide range of deviation of under 4.6% was acceptable so by coming in with a lower deviation than that I believe we are doing due diligence in trying to recreate our ward lines.

In approaching the redistricting, we followed other guidelines issued by the State Supreme Court, specifically to keep the core of the wards in place and to add or subtract adjoining population blocks to bring those populations together. When we talk about range of deviation we mean the difference between the smallest ward and the average population and the largest ward and the average population. When we started the process we had a range of deviation of 14%. The proposal before you now has a range of deviation of 3.9%.

The amendment that we will propose when the committee meets following the public hearing has a range of deviation of 3.4%. I will answer any questions the committee might have.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR – None

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION – None

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR – None

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION – None

The Public Hearing was declared closed at 7:05 p.m.

Alderman Arthur T. Craffey, Jr.
Committee Clerk